

SLC SP05/2019

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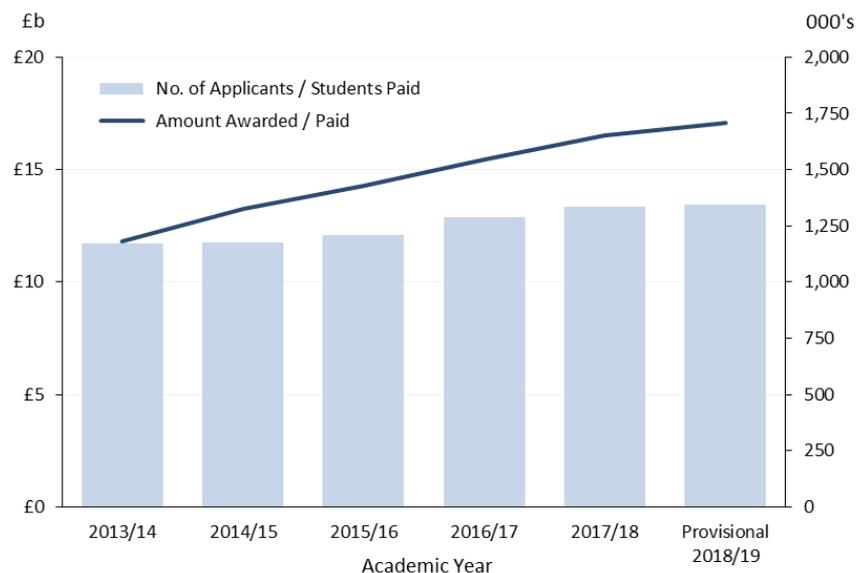
Coverage: England

Theme: Children, Education
and Skills

Student Support for Higher Education in England 2019: 2018/19 Full Year and 2019/20 Early In Year

Higher Education Student Support reaches £17.1 billion in Academic Year 2018/19

Figure 1: Number of students domiciled in England and EU (Outside UK) receiving Higher Education Support and Amount Awarded / Paid



The total amount paid out / awarded in student support across Full Time, Part Time and Postgraduate studies has reached £17.1 billion. This is up 3.1% from Academic Year 2017/18 which saw the amount paid / awarded at £16.5 billion. This is an overall average of £12,710 to each student.

The number of students has remained stable rising 0.9% from 1.33 million students in 2017/18 to 1.34 million in 2018/19.

The largest increase in student funding is evident within England domiciled Full Time Maintenance Loans where the average amount paid out increased by 10.0% from £5,590 in 2017/18 to £6,150 in 2018/19. Average Full Time Tuition Loans by comparison have not risen due to Full Time Tuition Fees remaining capped at 2017/18 amounts. The 2.2% increase in the amount paid out in Full Time Tuition Fee Loans can be attributed to the small increase in student numbers.

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Introduction

This statistics publication presents figures and observations on the student support awarded to applicants and paid to students or their Higher Education Provider. Payment figures are shown for the six academic years up to and including 2018/19. Section 7 gives an early indication of emerging trends of new policy products for Academic Year 2019/20.

The publication covers applicants and students domiciled in England taking a designated Higher Education (HE) course at a University, Further Education (FE) College or Alternative Provider in the UK, as well as EU (Outside UK) applicants and students taking a designated course in England.

What can you use these statistics for?

These statistics can be used as a reference to the amount of students awarded / paid and the amount awarded / paid out by the Students Loans Company for students studying in Higher Education between Academic Years 2013/14 and 2018/19.

The data used in this publication is from Student Loans Company's administrative systems. These systems only hold information on students who have applied for and / or receive funding. Due to this, these statistics cannot be used to analyse trends or to draw conclusions regarding the full UK student population.

Things you need to know

Payments Vs. Awards

The main aim of this publication is to measure payments to student support recipients funded by England over the course of each academic year. This is effectively what is paid in regard to Maintenance Loans, Tuition Fee Loans, Postgraduate Loans and Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

Awards differ from payments as they refer to the amount which will be paid if the applicant's attendance is confirmed for the full academic year. As payments refer to the actual amounts received by students, they can be lower if the student is not in attendance for the full academic year, if the applicant does not attend at all, or if they do not draw down the full amount which was awarded (e.g. they drop out mid-year).

Payments within to the most recent Academic Year, 2018/19 are provisional partly due to the Alternative Provider subset having later course start dates. Although the majority of payments / awards are captured by this point, the figures are finalised a year later and updated in the following years' publication.

For all new types of support an early indication of what has been paid / awarded two months into the latest academic year, in this publication, 2019/20 is provided in Section 7 of the Tables. The number of payments / awards made will change markedly between this point and the end of the academic year as additional students apply for student support.

There are data reporting limitations in regard to separating out grant product payments by individual product, For this reason the breakdowns of spend allocations of Maintenance Grants and other targeted support products e.g. Child Care Grant etc. are reported as awards.

Roundings, Totals and Averages

All student numbers and amounts have been rounded to the nearest 100 and £100,000 unless specified otherwise. Some totals and averages are calculated from un-rounded numbers.

Prior Years Comparison

In this publication, for context and identification of trends, current year figures are compared to prior years. As noted under the **Payments Vs. Awards** heading, some figures are finalised in the following years' publication. In some of the observation commentary provided, provisional figures are compared against a final figure taken at a different point in time. We must therefore highlight the overall movement between the provisional positions indicated in one publication vs. the 'final' published in the next.

The table below indicates the movement of figures between the 'Provisional 2017/18' totals published in 'Student Support for Higher Education in England 2018: Full Year 2017/18 And Early In Year 2018/19' and the current accompanying tables:

Product Category	Movement of Figures between 2017/18 Provisional & 2017/18 Final	
	No. Of Students Paid / Awarded	Total Amount Paid / Awarded
Undergraduate Grand Total	+ 0.03%	+ 1.58 %
Postgraduate Grand Total	+ 4.19%	+ 2.25 %

These figures include the more volatile products such as Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) and Child Care Grant. When making any prior year comparison in regards to these products, the 'final' year figures are compared, not provisional to final.

Overview of Full Time Undergraduate Student Funding Package Academic Year 2018/19

Figure 2: Maximum rates of Maintenance Grant, full year Maintenance Loan and Tuition Fee Loans available to Full Time Undergraduate students domiciled in England

Academic Year	Rates	Maximum Maintenance Grant [7]	Maximum Amount of Maintenance Loan [9]	Overall Maximum Support for Maintenance [5]	Maximum Tuition Fee Loan [8]
2018/19 (Funding arrangement introduced from 2016/17)	Elsewhere	.	8,700	8,700	9,250
	London	.	11,354	11,354	9,250
	Home	.	7,324	7,324	9,250
(Funding arrangement introduced from 2012/13)	Elsewhere	3,593	6,236	8,033	9,250
	London	3,593	8,702	10,499	9,250
	Home	3,593	4,960	6,757	9,250

. = not applicable

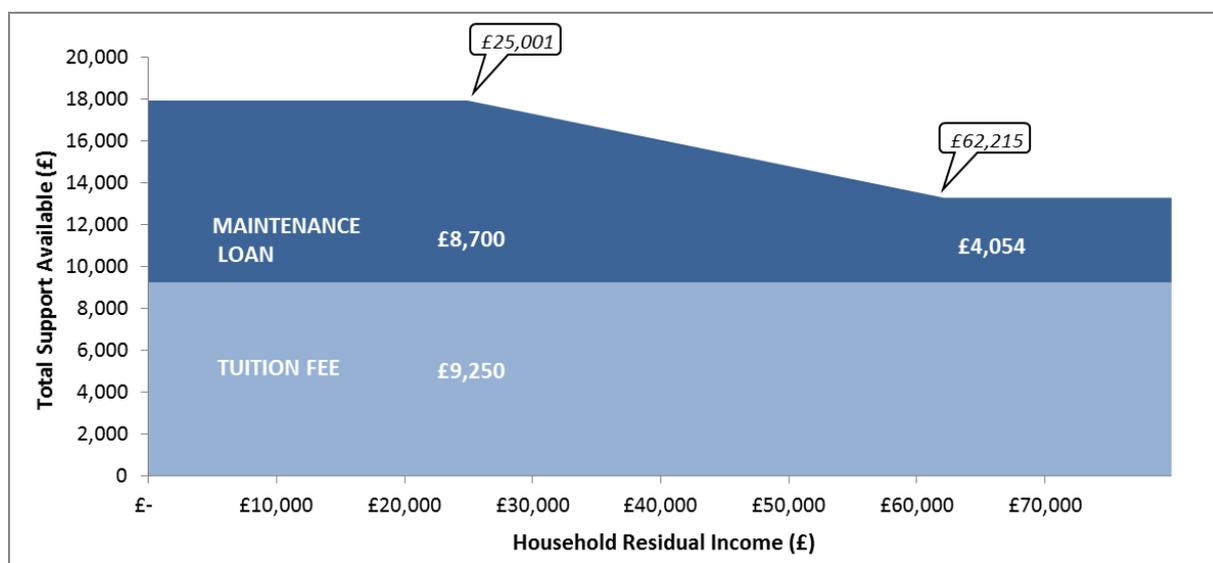
Sources: Department for Education (DfE), Student Loans Company (SLC)

Figure 3: Student Support available to Full Time students domiciled in England

For new students entering in 2018/19, living away from home and attending an institution outside London i.e. 'Elsewhere' rate.

Household Residual Income	Amount of Tuition Fee Loan available [8]	Amount of Maintenance Loan available [9]
Up to and including £25,000	£9,250	£8,700
Between £25,001 and £62,186	£9,250	£8,692 to £4,062
£62,215 and over	£9,250	£4,054

Source: Department for Education (DfE)



[5]	The maximum amount of support available is lower than the sum of the maximum Maintenance Loan and the maximum Maintenance
[7]	The Maintenance Grant is not available to new students from 2016/17 onwards.
[8]	The amount of Tuition Fee Loan is equivalent to the Tuition Fee charged, up to a maximum of £9,250. The maximum amount at alternative providers is £6,165.
[9]	Based on the 'Elsewhere' rate of Maintenance Loan.

Details of the amounts of loans and grants available to students are publicly available at the [Guide to Student Finance](#) section on the GOV.UK web site.

Undergraduate Maintenance Loans

An Undergraduate Maintenance Loan is funding to help with day-to-day costs, such as rent or food, whilst studying. These loans are available to those studying an eligible Undergraduate, Initial Teacher Training or Postgraduate Certificate of Education course, at an eligible Higher Education Provider on a Full or Part Time basis. The amount awarded is dependent on household income.

Amount paid in Full Time Maintenance Loans increases as Maintenance Grants continue to be phased out

Figure 4: Number of students domiciled in England receiving Higher Education Full Time Maintenance Loans and Amount Paid

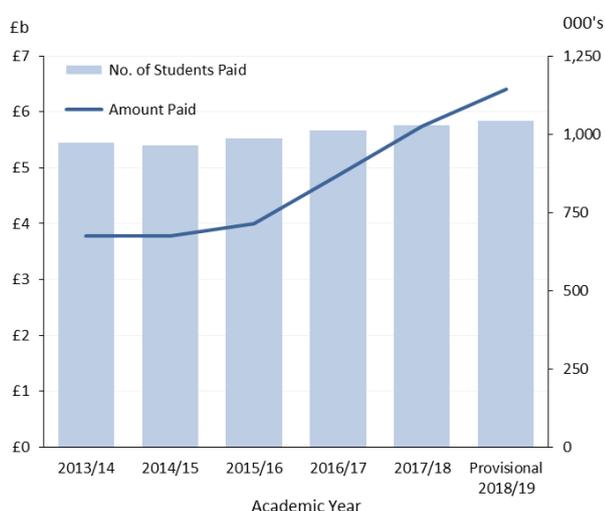
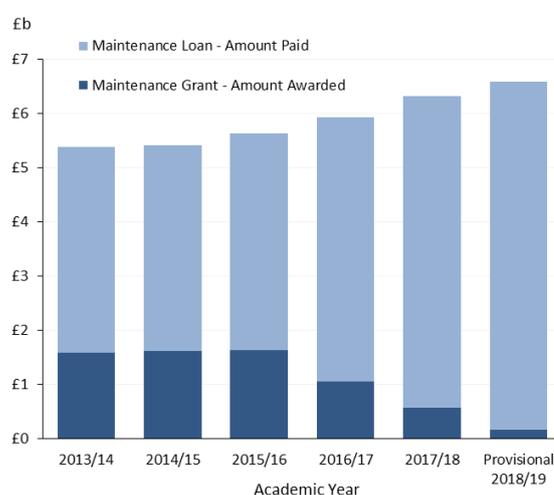


Figure 5: Amount Paid in Higher Education Full Time Maintenance Loans Vs. Amount Awarded in Maintenance Grants



Academic Year 2018/19 saw an 11.5% increase in Maintenance Loan payments on the previous year and a 69.4% increase since 2013/14. This is predominantly as a result of the policy change in Academic Year 2016/17 which saw non-repayable Maintenance Grants being replaced by increased Maintenance Loans for eligible students. Since this point, the total maintenance support attributed to loans has increased from 70.4% to 97.4%.

Also, as a result of this policy change, Maintenance Grant payments reduced from £1.6 billion awarded in Academic Year 2013/14, to £0.2 billion in 2018/19. From 2016/17 onwards Maintenance Grants were no longer made available to new students, therefore all amounts shown relate to Full Time students in continuing study from earlier years / cohorts.

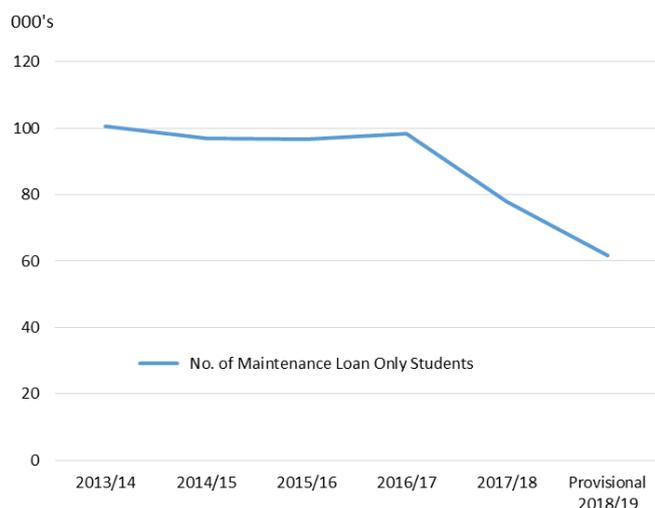
New Part Time Maintenance Loans introduced in Academic Year 2018/19

Maintenance Loans for Part Time Higher Education students were introduced for new students domiciled in England. Students have a maximum of 16 years equivalent funding for studying courses that are no more than four times the length of the full time comparable.

In Academic Year 2018/19, Part Time Maintenance Loan payments accounted for 6.4% of the overall £271.6 million of funding provided to those in Part Time Higher Education.

Reduction in students taking only Full Time Maintenance Loans

Figure 6: Number of students taking only Full Time Maintenance Loans



The majority of Full Time Undergraduate students in Academic Year 2018/19 (88.2%) apply / receive loans for both maintenance and tuition fees. This combination has increased from 84.6% in 2013/14. However, some students will opt for /only be entitled to take either a Maintenance Loan or a Tuition Fee Loan.

Since Academic Year 2016/17, levels of those who receive only a Maintenance Loan (no Tuition Fee Loan) have noticeably reduced. Reducing by 20.6% in comparison to the previous academic year and 37.2% since 2016/17.

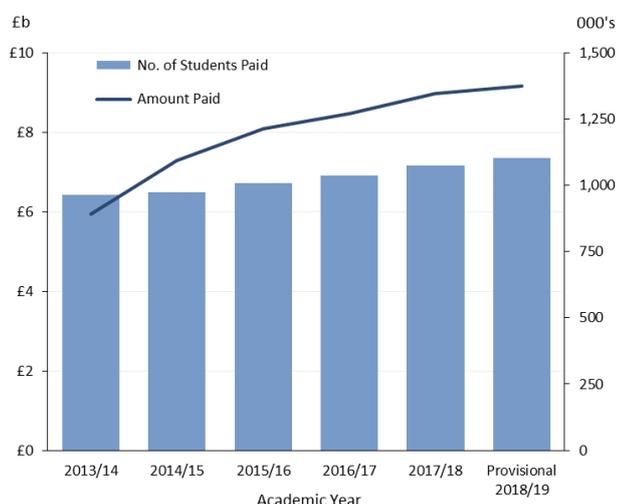
This reduction can be seen within the Public Provider subset. Figures relating to those studying at Alternative Providers have remained relatively stable.

Undergraduate Tuition Fee Loans

An Undergraduate Tuition Fee Loan covers the cost of the tuition fees charged by the university or college. These loans are available to those studying an eligible Undergraduate, Initial Teacher Training or Postgraduate Certificate of Education course, at an eligible Higher Education Provider on a Full or Part Time basis. Tuition Fee Loans are not dependent on household income.

Small increase in total paid out in Full Time Tuition Fees Loans

Figure 7: Number of students domiciled in England and EU (Outside UK) receiving Full Time Tuition Fee Loans and Amount Paid



In comparison to the previous academic year, the amount paid out in Higher Education Tuition Fee Loans increased by 2.2% in 2018/19.

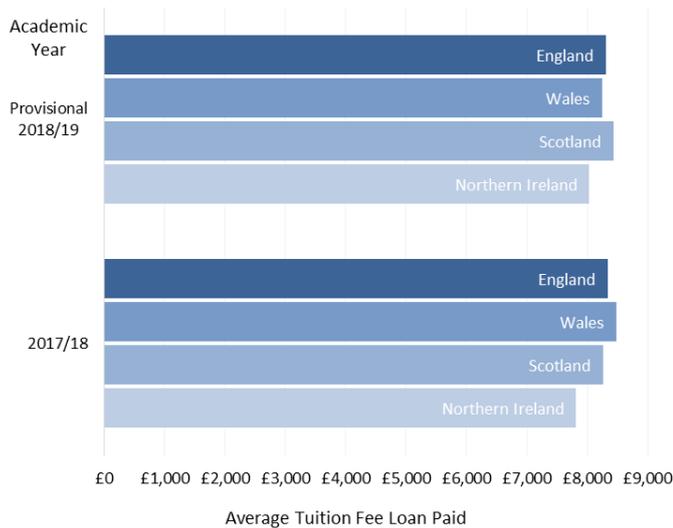
Since 2013/14 this is an increase of 54.6%.

As tuition fees were capped in Academic Year 2017/18, the increase can be attributed to a slight increase in student numbers (+2.6%).

Similar growth can be seen in both England and EU (Outside UK) domiciled students taking out Tuition Fee Loans.

Average amount of Full Time Tuition Fee Loans in England remain constant due to Tuition Fee freeze

Figure 8: Average Full Time Tuition Fee Loans funded by Student Finance England by country of study



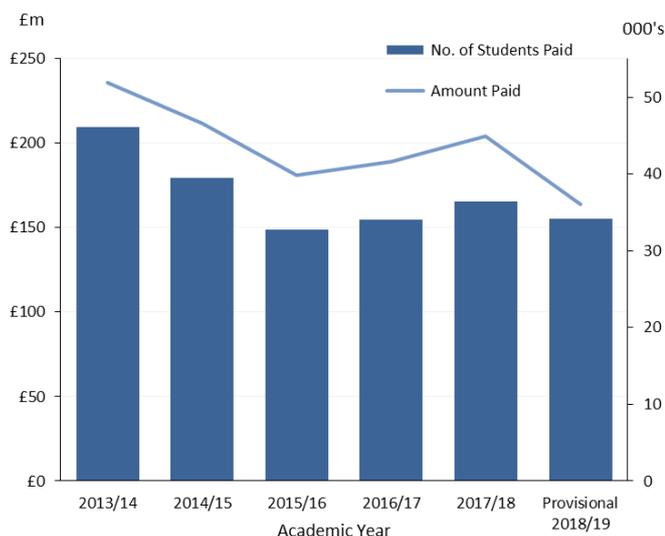
The average amount paid in Full Time Higher Education Tuition Fee Loans differs dependent on the country and type of provider that an England domiciled student chooses to study in. This is due to differing amounts that each country / provider type in the UK are able to charge for Tuition Fees.

A cap of £9,250 for Public Providers in England and £6,250 for Alternative Providers was introduced in Academic Year 2017/18 and remained effective in 2018/19.

In Academic Year 2018/19, the highest average Tuition Fee Loan was paid to students studying in Scotland amounting to £8,430 for the year. This differs from the previous academic year where the highest average was paid to students studying in Wales, at £8,480.

Provisional figures show a decrease in number of Full Time Tuition Fee Loans issued to students taking courses at Alternative Providers

Figure 9: Number of students domiciled in England and EU (Outside UK) receiving Full Time Tuition Fee Loans at Alternative Providers and Amount Paid



Alternative Providers are Higher Education providers who do not receive recurrent funding from Office for Students (OfS, previously HEFCE) or other public bodies.

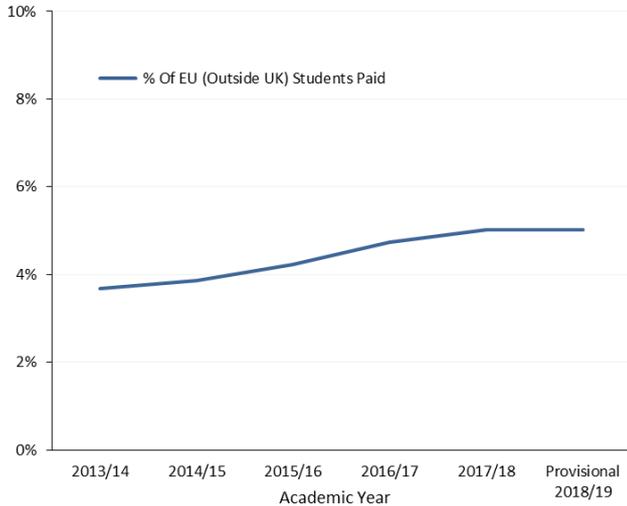
Both the number of students receiving Tuition Fee funding at these Providers and the amount paid to them decreased in Academic Year 2018/19. This follows a steady increase over the previous three academic years.

When comparing the number of students paid as at 31st August 2019, to the previous year's provisional figure of 35,200 (finalised in this publication at 36,400) this is a decrease of 3.2% to 34,100.

This decline can be seen in both students domiciled in England and the EU (Outside UK).

Levels of Full Time EU (Outside UK) domiciled Tuition Fee Loan borrowers remained constant in Academic Year 2018/19

Figure 10: Number of EU (Outside UK) students receiving Full Time Tuition Fee funding from Student Finance England



Of the total number of students in receipt of a Tuition Fee Loan for an Undergraduate Full Time course in Academic Year 2018/19, 55,500 (5.0%) were EU (Outside UK) domiciled.

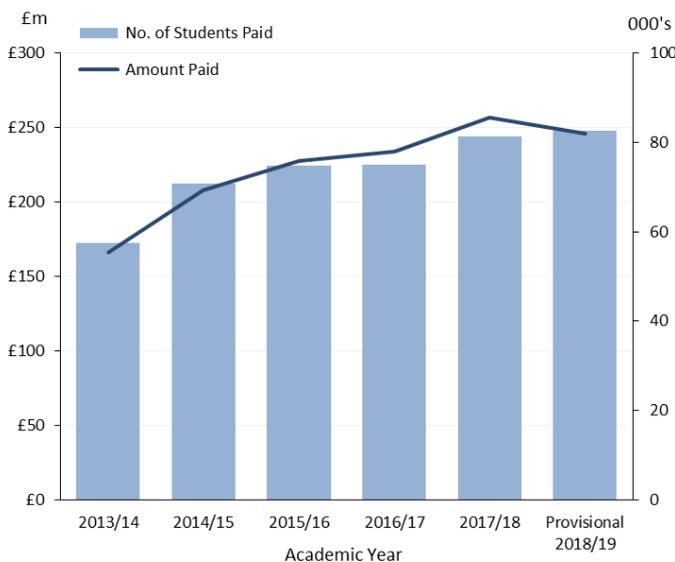
This figure has remained relatively stable since 2016/17.

Since Academic Year 2013/14 numbers in receipt of the Tuition Fee Loan have risen from by 20,000.

At the time of this publication, Tuition Fee funding remains available to EU (Outside UK) domiciled students for Academic Year 2019/20.

Increase in numbers of Part Time Tuition Fee Loans decelerates, with amounts paid decreasing

Figure 11: Number of students domiciled in England and EU (Outside UK) receiving Part Time Tuition Fee Loans and Amount Paid



The increase in the total number of students in receipt of a Part Time Higher Education Tuition Fee Loan has slowed to 1.6% in Academic Year 2018/19.

In comparison, 2017/18's numbers were 8.0% higher than in Academic Year 2016/17.

Also present is a decrease in the amount paid to Providers. The total amounts in 2018/19 was 4.3% lower than in the previous academic year.

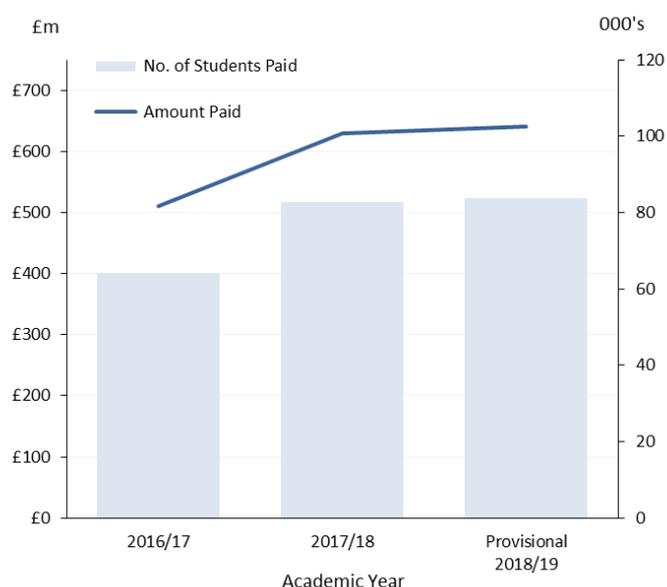
Since 2013/14, the total amount paid out in Part Time Tuition Fee Loans in the academic year has increased by 48.1%.

Postgraduate Loans

A Postgraduate Master's and Doctoral Loan is funding to help with course and living costs whilst studying an eligible Postgraduate level course. They are paid directly to the student and are not based on their income or the income of their household. Students studying either a Postgraduate Certificate of Education or an Initial Teacher Training course are not eligible for Postgraduate funding, they can alternatively apply for Undergraduate finance.

Postgraduate Master's Loans Numbers stabilise following introduction in 2016/17

Figure 12: Number of students domiciled in England and EU (Outside UK) receiving Postgraduate Master's Loans and Amount Paid



Academic Year 2018/19 saw a 1.2% increase in the number of students taking out a Postgraduate Master's Loan in comparison to the previous year.

This is a 30.8% increase since the loan's first year in 2016/17.

The amount paid out has increased by 2.0% in comparison to Academic Year 2017/18, and is 25.7% higher than in 2016/17.

Average loans paid have remained reasonably constant in comparison to prior year, but have decreased by £310 since the first year (-3.9%).

New Postgraduate Doctoral Loans introduced in 2018/19

In Academic Year 2018/19, Postgraduate Doctoral Loans were made available to both England and EU (Outside EU) domiciled students who commenced an eligible Doctoral degree course. Students must be undertaking a full level 8 doctoral course which must last between 3 and 8 academic years.

The 2018/19 policy stated that a maximum of £25,000 was available for new students, however, there is a capped amount per academic year of £10,609 which means that students who wait until their final year to apply will not receive the full amount available. These loans are non-means tested, paid directly to the student and can be used for both tuition and / or maintenance costs.

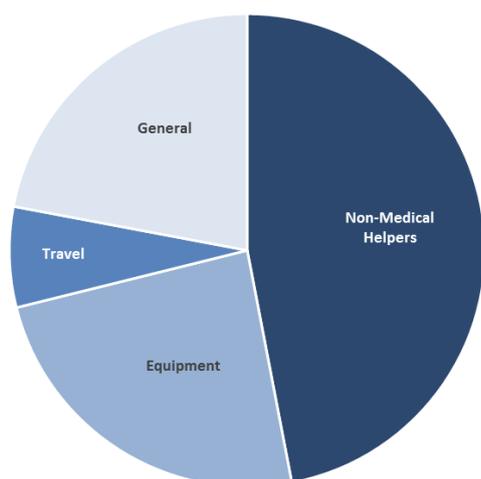
Provisional first year figures indicate that by 31st August 2019, a little over 3,000 students were in receipt of the Doctoral loan, at an average of £5,790 per student. EU (Outside UK) borrowers indicated a provisional average of £6,680 which was £920 higher than those who were England domiciled.

Disabled Students Allowance

Disabled Students Allowances help pay for extra costs a student might incur as a direct result of their disability. This also includes long-term health conditions such as mental-health illnesses, specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia or dyspraxia etc. The individuals' condition must meet the definition of a disability under the Equality Act 2010. Disabled Students' Allowances does not usually have to be repaid, unless the student leaves their course early.

Almost half of Undergraduate Disabled Students Allowance spend attributed to Non-Medical Helpers in Academic Year 2017/18

Figure 13: Amount Paid in Full & Part Time Disabled Students Allowance by Category - Academic Year 2017/18



'Non-Medical Helpers' allowance is one of the four categories of Disabled Student Allowance (DSA). It is used to help pay for support workers such as British Sign Language interpreters, mobility trainers etc. Helpers can provide course-specific assistance with library support, typists, readers etc.

This category accounted for 47.0% of the overall Higher Education Full and Part Time DSA spend in Academic Year 2017/18. Claims amounted to £52.0 million of the total £110.7 million paid out.

The total count of claimants receiving Full and Part Time Disabled Student Allowance for Academic Year 2017/18 was 2,600 less than in 2013/14. The only category to have increased the number of claimants is 'Travel', indicating an increase of 1,000.

As at the 31st August 2019, a total of £112.9 million has been paid for Academic 2018/19 for both Full and Part time students. This is 10.7% higher than at the same point in 2017/18.

Generally Disabled Students Allowances (DSA) are paid direct to the providers of equipment and services covered by the allowance although students may receive some funding paid directly to them, depending on their circumstances.

The vast majority is paid to suppliers once the Student Loans Company receive the invoices for equipment or services. Invoices continue to be received well after the end of the academic year which is why we quote figures a year later. Also, the majority of DSA applications are received after the term starts as many students do not become aware that they are entitled to support until they have started their course.

Summary of Policy Changes – Academic Year 2018/19

- **Full Time Tuition Fee Loan** – No change from Academic Year 2017/18. Eligible English domiciled students and EU (Outside UK) domiciled students who started Full Time courses on or after 1 August 2016 at Public providers were subject to a maximum tuition fee of £9,250 (£6,250 at Alternative providers), and could borrow up to this amount in the form of a Tuition Fee Loan.
- **Full Time Maintenance Loan** – Maximum Loans for living costs for new and continuing Full Time students who started their courses on or after 1 August 2018 increased by forecast inflation (3.1%). The maximum loan for living costs for students living away from home and studying outside London was increased to £8,700, for students living away from home and studying in London to £11,354 and for students living at home to £7,324.
- **Disabled Students Allowance** – No change from Academic Year 2017/18.
 - For Full Time Undergraduate students, Non-Medical Helper Allowance remained at £21,181, the Specialist Equipment Allowance to £5,332, and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) to £1,785.
 - For Part Time Undergraduate students, the Non-Medical Helper Allowance remained at £15,885, the Specialist Equipment Allowance at £5,332 and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) at £1,338.
 - The maximum Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) for those on Postgraduate courses remained at £10,590.
- **Part Time Maintenance Loan** - New for Academic Year 2018/19. Part Time students who started a course on or after 1 August 2018 were eligible for a Maintenance Loan. Whilst income assessed, the loan is also adjusted by the students' intensity of study.
 - Part Time education can be studied at a range of different intensities (studies a certain percentage of the full time equivalent (FTE) course). The intensity of study will be based on the number of credits that the student intends to complete in a given academic year. Payments are made on a banded basis. The minimum intensity of study in an academic year for Part Time funding for fee loans, loans for living costs and DSAs is 25%. Students will be supported for no more than four times the length of a full time equivalent course, capped at 16-years maximum.
 - Based on 100% intensity of study, the maximum loan for living costs for Part Time students living away from home and studying outside London was increased to £8,700, for students living away from home and studying in London to £11,354 and for students living at home to £7,324.
- **Postgraduate Master's** - Maximum loans for new students starting Postgraduate Master's courses were increased to £10,609.
- **Postgraduate Doctoral** – New for AY 2018/19. Students who commence an eligible Doctoral course in Academic Year 2018/19 could apply for up to £25,000 during their Postgraduate Doctoral course. Students can apply in any year of their course, but they may not receive the maximum loan amount if they apply after their first year.

Changes in policy occurring in 2017/18 and in previous years can be found on our [statistics pages](#).

Early in Year – Indicative Look

Summary of Support Available – Academic Year 2019/20

- **Full Time Tuition Fee Loans** – For Academic Year 2019/20, Higher Education providers will have registered with the Office for Students (OfS) as ‘Approved (Fee Cap)’ providers or ‘Approved Providers’. This, and whether providers have an Office for OfS Access and Participation Plan and with / without a Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) will determine the fees they can charge.

An example of Maximum Fee Caps in 2019/20 for full-time courses at Approved (Fee Cap) Providers in England with (*without*) an OfS Access and Participation Plan are shown below:-

Rate	Maximum Fee Cap Without TEF Award AY 2019/20 £	Maximum Fee Cap With TEF Award AY 2019/20 £
Full Year	£9,000 (£6,000)	£9,250 (£6,165)

- **Full Time Maintenance Loans** – Maximum loans for living costs for new and continuing full time students who started their courses on or after 1 August 2019 increased by forecast inflation (3.3%). The maximum loan for living costs for students living away from home and studying outside London was increased to £8,944, for students living away from home and studying in London to £11,672 and for students living at home to £7,529.
- **Disabled Students Allowance** -
 - For Full Time Undergraduate students, Non-Medical Helper Allowance increased to £22,472, the Specialist Equipment Allowance to £5,657, and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) to £1,894.
 - For Part Time Undergraduate students, the Non-Medical Helper Allowance increased to £16,853, the Specialist Equipment Allowance at £5,657 and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) at £1,420.
 - The maximum Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) for those on Postgraduate courses increased to £20,000.
- **Postgraduate Master’s** - Maximum loans for new students starting Postgraduate master’s courses were increased by forecast inflation to £10,906.
- **Postgraduate Doctoral** – Maximum loans for new students were increased to £25,700 for the duration of the graduate Doctoral course. The yearly cap on funding, remained at £10,609.
- **Part Time Maintenance Loan** - Based on 100% intensity of study, the maximum loan for living costs for part time students living away from home and studying outside London was increased to £8,944, for students living away from home and studying in London to £11,672 and for students living at home to £7,527.

Accelerated Degrees introduced in Academic Year 2019/20

From Academic Year 2019/20 additional Tuition Fee funding will be available for students studying on Accelerated Degrees. Accelerated degrees are full time courses taught in a time period of at least 1 year less than the length of the equivalent standard course. To qualify these courses must lead to an Honours, Ordinary or Integrated Master's degree.

For courses that meet the eligibility to be classed as accelerated degrees, Higher Education Providers can now charge 20% extra on the maximum standard fee for that course whereas previously could only charge the same as the equivalent standard course.

As at 31st October 2019 for Academic Year 2019 (2 months into the academic year), £1 million has been paid out in accelerated degrees tuition fee loans on behalf of 400 Full Time students. This is an average of £2,620 per student.

Maintenance funding for Accelerated courses remains the same as standard Full Time courses.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Alternative Provider	An Alternative Provider is any provider of higher education courses which is not in direct receipt of recurrent funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (OfS) or from equivalent bodies in the Devolved Administrations; or does not receive direct recurrent public funding (for example, from a local authority, or from the Secretary of State for Education); and is not a further education college. Only providers with courses designated for student support are included in the statistics.
Applicant	This is a person applying for student support. Not all applicants take up a place. Applicants become students once they take up a place and the SLC has received a confirmation of their attendance.
Award	If an applicant for student finance is assessed as meeting the eligibility criteria as stipulated within the student finance regulations then they will be awarded student support. Awards will be paid on condition that the applicant subsequently attends the Higher Education Provider at which point they will be considered a student and payments will be released according to the payment schedule for the support types awarded.
Country of Study	The country in which the Higher Education (HE) Provider is located and where which the applicant intends to / is studying at.
Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)	Disabled Students Allowances help pay for extra costs a student might incur as a direct result of their disability. This also includes long-term health conditions such as mental-health illnesses, specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia or dyspraxia etc.
Domiciled	The country in which the applicant would normally reside in the three years prior to the start of the course. This publication covers those students domiciled in England who study anywhere in the UK and EU (Outside UK) students studying in England.
Entry Cohort	Grouping of applicants according to the Education (Student Support) Regulations against which the applicant was assessed for support. Student finance applicants are generally covered by transitional protection which means they continue to be assessed against the regulations in place for their first year of study, but this is not always the case.
Estimated Eligible Population	The numbers of students that are eligible to apply for student finance including those who do not apply. Figures for the estimated eligible population are supplied by the Department for Education (DfE). DfE use data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and other sources with the closest approximation of eligibility criteria available from those sources.
Final Figures	The final position refers to statistics in a steady state. Final figures are not expected to change significantly and should represent the final outcome.
Full Time	This refers to the mode of study for which student support is being paid, primarily to undergraduate students. For the purposes of this publication, the full time data also includes part time and flexible ITT students who started their courses before 2010/11, as these students were also eligible for full time student support. Students starting the same courses after 2010/11 are not included.

Full Year Maintenance Loan	The amount of Maintenance Loan available to students varies between those studying in their final year and those studying in an earlier year of their course. Students in their final year will be entitled to a reduced amount to reflect the reduced length of time in attendance at their university over which maintenance support is required.
Higher Education Provider	For the purpose of this publication it is an organisation designated for student support and can include Universities which receive the bulk of their funding from public sources, Further Education Colleges, and Alternative Providers.
Household Residual Income	This is the income associated with the household where the applicant normally resides. It comprises of the taxable earned and unearned incomes of the applicant or those of the applicants parents' minus any allowable deductions.
Level of Support	Identifies if the applicant was awarded the full level of means tested grant, the partial level or no grant at all.
Maintenance Loan Rate	Applicants are entitled to a different amount of Maintenance Loans depending on their term-time residence. Rates differ for applicants living at home, in London or elsewhere (excluding London).
Other Targeted Support	These are grants and allowances provided to students meeting specific circumstances. Targeted support includes Travel Grant, Parental Learning Allowance, Childcare Grant and Adult Dependants Grant.
Provider Type	See either 'Public Provider' or 'Alternative Provider'
Provisional Figures	These are figures based on the status at either end-August or end-October (Section 7: Early In Year Data - Student Counts & New Policy). End-August is used as this reflects the end of the academic year for the majority of Providers. However, due to the Alternative Provider subset being subject to movement due to later course start dates, these are noted as provisional and then finalised at the end of the following academic year. Section 7 of the publication provides a look at emerging trends two months into the academic year. These figures are not revised.
Public Provider	A Public Provider is any provider of higher education courses which is in direct receipt of recurrent funding from OfS or from equivalent bodies in the Devolved Administrations; or in receipt of direct recurrent public funding (for example, from a local authority, or from the Secretary of State for Education); or is a further education college. Only providers with courses designated for student support are included in the statistics.
Student	For the purpose of this publication, an applicant for student support becomes a student once the Student Loans Company has received confirmation that the person is attending a course with a Higher Education Provider. Not all applicants take up a place.
Student Support Available	This is the arrangement available at the time of the application for support. It includes the range of support available, the eligibility rules and the income thresholds.
Take-up Rate	The rate of which the Eligible Population chooses to apply for a Maintenance Loan.

Additional Information

Data Sources

This publication uses data from SLC's administrative systems. For details of the administrative data sources used in our publications see the [Statement of Administrative Sources](#).

Data Quality

SLC has published the Quality Guidelines that it follows. As per those guidelines a Quality Plan is produced for each publication. The Quality Plan stipulates two stages of Quality Assurance. Data is extracted from the administrative systems then reviewed using a standard Quality Assurance checklist. The statistical tables created using that data are quality assured using the Statistical Quality guidelines. See our [Quality Guidelines](#) for further information.

Related Statistics Publications

SLC publish statistics on Higher Education Funding for Wales and Northern Ireland as part of the same series this publication belongs to. These are published at the same time as part of the series [Student Support for Higher Education](#). SLC also publish statistics on the repayment of Student Loans for Higher Education in the series Student Loans in England. The [latest release](#) of this series was published on the 13 June 2019 covering Tax Year 2018-19.

The Student Awards Agency for Scotland publish details of Higher Education funding in Scotland in their publication Higher Education Student Support in Scotland. The [latest release](#) of this series was published in 29 October 2019 covering Academic Session 2018/19.

National Statistics

This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

This publication series (publications for England, Wales & Northern Ireland) was awarded National Statistics status in October 2011 following a [full assessment](#) against their Code of Practice.

Since the assessments by the Office for Statistics Regulation we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made a number of improvements including the following:

- Supplementary tables added giving payments breakdown by HE Provider within Provider Type - England only
- Part Time and Postgraduate DSA added – All domiciles
- Additional tables added to show DSA payments breakdown by Type – All domiciles
- Postgraduate Loans added – England and Wales
- Methodology for calculating take-up % for Alternative Providers refined – England only
- Sections restructured, bringing Loans more to the fore and clearly separating out Full Time Undergraduate, Part Time Undergraduate and Postgraduate students. The 'Early In Year' focus changed to actual students and amounts paid rather, than applications and amounts awarded
- Introduced cross-country comparison of average Maintenance Loan paid